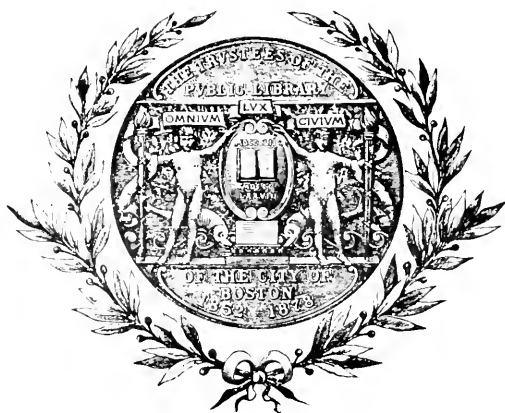




No. 9335.4a365







Congress. House. Committee on Un-  
American Activities.

# THE CRIMES OF KHRUSHCHEV

## PART 6

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### CONSULTATIONS WITH

Mr. RUSI NASAR

Mr. ERGACSH SCHERMATOGLU

Mr. CONSTANT MIERLAK

Dr. VITAUT TUMASH

Mr. ANTON SHUKLOYTS

### COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

Subcommittee  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SIXTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION



DECEMBER 17, 1959  
(INCLUDING INDEX)

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## COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

### UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## PUBLIC LAW 601, 79TH CONGRESS

The legislation under which the House Committee on Un-American Activities operates is Public Law 601, 79th Congress [1946], chapter 753, 2d session, which provides:

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, \* \* \**

### PART 2—RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### RULE X

##### SEC. 121. STANDING COMMITTEES

\* \* \* \* \*

18. Committee on Un-American Activities, to consist of nine Members.

#### RULE XI

##### POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

\* \* \* \* \*

(q) (1) Committee on Un-American Activities.  
(A) Un-American activities.

(2) The Committee on Un-American Activities, as a whole or by subcommittee, is authorized to make from time to time investigations of (i) the extent, character, and objects of un-American propaganda activities in the United States, (ii) the diffusion within the United States of subversive and un-American propaganda that is instigated from foreign countries or of a domestic origin and attacks the principle of the form of government as guaranteed by our Constitution, and (iii) all other questions in relation thereto that would aid Congress in any necessary remedial legislation.

The Committee on Un-American Activities shall report to the House (or to the Clerk of the House if the House is not in session) the results of any such investigation, together with such recommendations as it deems advisable.

For the purpose of any such investigation, the Committee on Un-American Activities, or any subcommittee thereof, is authorized to sit and act at such times and places within the United States, whether or not the House is sitting, has recessed, or has adjourned, to hold such hearings, to require the attendance of such witnesses and the production of such books, papers, and documents, and to take such testimony, as it deems necessary. Subpenas may be issued under the signature of the chairman of the committee or any subcommittee, or by any member designated by any such chairman, and may be served by any person designated by any such chairman or member.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### RULE XII

##### LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT BY STANDING COMMITTEES

SEC. 136. To assist the Congress in appraising the administration of the laws and in developing such amendments or related legislation as it may be deemed necessary, each standing committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall exercise continuous watchfulness of the execution by the administrative agencies concerned of any laws, the subject matter of which is within the jurisdiction of such committee; and, for that purpose, shall study all pertinent reports and data submitted to the Congress by the agencies in the executive branch of the Government.



RULES ADOPTED BY THE 86TH CONGRESS

House Resolution 7, January 7, 1959

\* \* \* \* \*

RULE X

STANDING COMMITTEES

1. There shall be elected by the House, at the commencement of each Congress.

\* \* \* \* \*

(q) Committee on Un-American Activities, to consist of nine Members.

\* \* \* \* \*

RULE XI

POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

\* \* \* \* \*

18. Committee on Un-American Activities.

(a) Un-American activities.

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\* \* \* \* \*

26. To assist the House in appraising the administration of the laws and in developing such amendments or related legislation as it may deem necessary, each standing committee of the House shall exercise continuous watchfulness of the execution by the administrative agencies concerned of any laws, the subject matter of which is within the jurisdiction of such committee; and, for that purpose, shall study all pertinent reports and data submitted to the House by the agencies in the executive branch of the Government.

\* \* \* we say to the gentlemen who are waiting to see whether the Soviet Union will change its political program: Wait for a blue moon! And you know when that will be.

Nikita Khrushchev in a speech at Nov. 24, 1955,  
Indian-Soviet Society reception in Bombay.

# THE CRIMES OF KHRUSHCHEV

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## SYNOPSIS

Hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children are being forcibly resettled in Siberia and Turkistan from the Baltic States, the Ukraine, and Byelorussia (White Russia) under Khrushchev's "Virgin Land Policy," witnesses stated in the accompanying consultation with the Committee on Un-American Activities.

Rusi Nasar and Ergacsh Schermatoglu, from Turkistan, which was forcibly taken over by the Communists and which is located within the Asian part of the Soviet Union, described the wholesale brutality being inflicted on masses of humanity within the Soviet empire in effectuating Khrushchev's policies of forced deportation.

"After 1953, 1954, when Khrushchev's colonization policy began, about 1,500,000 people came to Turkistan from the European part of the Soviet Union," Mr. Schermatoglu stated.

Continuing, he said:

They brought in various peoples: for example, from Russia, from the Ukraine, from Byelorussia, from the Baltic countries, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and from Moldavia.

When Khrushchev was the Communist boss in the Ukraine (from 1938 to 1949), he deported from the Ukraine into Turkistan nearly one million people, Mr. Nasar testified. He continued:

They were forcibly sent to Turkistan. Here, with one stone, Khrushchev beat two of his enemies. First, he sent anti-Soviet enemies from the Ukraine. Those people who were sent to the other country, not only lost the opportunity to resist Soviet oppression in the Ukraine, but when they came to Turkistan, a different country with different living conditions and a different cultural background, of course they were antagonistic.

Commenting on the comparative brutality of Khrushchev's Virgin Land Policy, with the inhumanities in the forcible deportations practiced by Stalin, Mr. Schermatoglu testified:

Brutality has very much increased, even as compared to the Stalin regime. Under Khrushchev it has increased strongly.

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The brutality and cunning efficiency of Khrushchev's Virgin Land Policy may be reflected, in a sense, by looking at the statistics. During Stalin's regime, notwithstanding the unspeakable ruthlessness with which this tyrant promulgated his policies, there were developed 174 State-controlled agri-

cultural enterprises, which means that there were 174 distinct forced labor camps in which the workers were, in effect, slaves for the State. Since Khrushchev assumed power, the statistics show that this number of forced State-owned agricultural enterprises has increased to almost 900.

May I emphasize that these statistics cannot illustrate or convey the human suffering, the deprivation of liberty, and the inhumanity which is involved in these forced deportations and forced resettlements of human beings in our former homeland. Remember, the fact is that these resettlements are carried out at the threat of the lives of the men, women, and children who are transported thousands of miles and resettled in a strange land, within the shadow of the Soviet military force and under the everwatchful eye of the secret police.

With reference to the number of forced labor camps in the Soviet Republic of Turkistan, Mr. Schermatoglu continued:

The exact number of concentration camps we cannot say, because it is a Soviet State secret. But every one of these agricultural enterprises has forced labor brigades. In a sense, our entire homeland is a forced labor camp, in that it is operated under an iron-fisted dictatorship from Moscow. Beyond that, however, within the borders of our homeland, Turkistan, there operate numerous groups known as labor brigades, which are nothing but slave labor groups involving hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children who are shifted from area to area to perform labor tasks.

Again I say, Khrushchev and his bloody regime may dispute the existence of slave labor camps because they are not called slave labor camps, but for all intents and purposes they have every element of a slave labor camp, including starvation, brutalities, the infliction of death upon those who do not conform to the rigid discipline, the deprivation of human liberty, and all of the other elements which were present in the slave labor camps as they were formerly characterized in the regime of Stalin.

Constant Mierlak, national president of the Byelorussian-American Association, and Dr. Vitaut Tumash, chairman of the Byelorussian Institute of Arts and Sciences in the United States, portrayed Khrushchev's program for annihilation of the Byelorussian nation consisting of non-Russian people in Byelorussia (White Russia).

Speaking of Khrushchev's plan to annihilate the Byelorussian nation, Mr. Mierlak stated:

\* \* \* The original plan was conceived and carried on by Stalin, with terror and physical destruction, by mass shootings, deportations to concentration camps, where people died from cold, malnutrition, and hardship, and other similar means. The same policy is now pursued by Mr. Khrushchev, only with different applied methods.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Khrushchev does not deport people to concentration camps for destruction, but he resettles them in Kazakhstan

and in other Siberian lands, thus denationalizing the other nations and depopulating Byelorussia. Furthermore, he sends Russians in place of the resettled Byelorussians.

Mr. Khrushchev, to carry on Russification and assimilation in Byelorussia, does not change the Byelorussian grammar like Stalin did, but he reduces Byelorussian schools and, at the same time, is increasing the Russian ones. He reduces Byelorussian publications, but, at the same time increases the Russian ones; and the same pattern is followed in all branches of cultural, economical, and social life in Byelorussia.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic delegation to the Fourteenth Assembly of the United Nations consists of eight persons, all of them Russians who do not even speak Byelorussian, the language of the people whom they supposedly represent in the United Nations, except one P. U. Brovka, who is Byelorussian and chairman of the Committee of the Byelorussian Writers Union.

Dr. Tumash described the grim realities of Khrushchev's forcible deportations in the following statement:

Today we definitely can say that the rate per year of deportations of Byelorussians to distant lands of the Soviet Union during the years of Khrushchev's regime is higher than during the time of Stalin's dictatorship.

Mr. ARENS. With what facts can you support that statement, sir?

Dr. TUMASH. The deportations of the Byelorussian population in recent years have increased to an extent never before known in the history of Byelorussia. These people, hundreds of thousands yearly, are transported to the far countries of Soviet Asia and the northern European Soviet districts. The initiative and design of this deportation plan have come directly from Khrushchev as first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mass deportation from Byelorussia under Khrushchev's dictatorship is a permanent activity.

Comparing the methods of mass deportation followed by Khrushchev with those followed by his predecessor, Stalin, Dr. Tumash continued:

There are some differences, but really there is no change in principles, no change in goals. One of the differences, to take an example, was that when Stalin had these mass deportations performed from Byelorussia, his aim was mostly to destroy these people physically. He arrested them and sent them to concentration camps, where they had to endure and work under inhuman conditions, and perish. It seems that Khrushchev's method is, on the other hand, that he does not think about killing the population, but he wants to transfer

it to other regions, to Russify it and to use it for colonization of other Republics of the U.S.S.R. His intent does not seem to be to destroy them physically, but nationally, and through this action to make Russians stronger in numbers on the one hand, and on the other to decrease the population of the non-Russian Republics, in this case, the Byelorussian population.

Anton Shukeloyts, one-time member of the Commission for the Reconstruction of Churches Destroyed by Communists, testified respecting Khrushchev's antireligious terror.

Mr. Shukeloyts stated:

We have to take into account that the Byelorussian people have confessed the Christian faith for almost a thousand years, yet, as a result of the Communist antireligious terror at the beginning of the Second World War, there was not a single church of the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Protestant, or Jewish denomination in the whole territory of the Byelorussian S.S.R. There was not a single priest of these denominations who could legally perform his religious duties. As our commission soon found, the same situation also existed in Minsk, the capital of Byelorussia: In this city with a population of more than 240,000 we found not a single open church regardless of religion. The Orthodox cathedral was dynamited, and there was a place for a circus on its site. The other church, seat of the metropolitan in Minsk, also Orthodox, was turned into a museum, and later turned into an amusement club for Soviet officers. What had been the body of the church was turned into a theater hall. In reconstructing this house for the Soviet officers, all the marble material was taken out of Catholic, Orthodox, and Jewish cemeteries.

In the Catholic Cathedral of St. Mary, there was constructed a garage for trucks.

\* \* \* \* \*

Under the Khrushchev dictatorship, the Orthodox Cathedral of St. Catherine, which is the oldest one of the churches in Minsk, and which was, before the Second World War, changed into a warehouse and then reverted again to a church by the people during the German occupation, has now again been converted, this time into the archives of the State.

The Catholic Cathedral of St. Mary, changed first into a garage, but reconstructed under the German occupation by the people, has now been converted into a sport club.

The Catholic Church of Sts. Simeon and Helen, popularly called the "Red Church" because of its color, which before the Second World War served as a theater for youth, and which was reconstructed by the Byelorussian people during the time of German occupation, has now, according to the sources we have, been converted again, into a warehouse.

The principal Jewish synagogue in Minsk, which before the Second World War was converted into a traveling artists'

theater, has now been completely reconstructed and converted into a Russian dramatic theater. Through this reconstruction, the building is now so changed that it would take an expert to find out that it was formerly a synagogue.

The oldest Jewish synagogue in Minsk, built in 1633, is now changed into a warehouse.

The principal Protestant church in Minsk has been converted into a moving picture theater for children.

Thousands of churches of all denominations in all other cities, towns, and villages of Byelorussia are in similar condition today. Many of the destroyed churches were priceless ancient relics of the architecture and art of Byelorussia. To understand the extent of the destruction of religious life in Byelorussia brought on by 40 years of this Communist terror, we should consider the fact that this country, which before World War I, had about 4,500 Orthodox, about 450 Catholic, and 700 Jewish churches, now has religious services performed only in several hundred of Orthodox, and a few Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish churches.





# THE CRIMES OF KHRUSHCHEV

## (Part 6)

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1959

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES,  
*Washington, D.C.*

### CONSULTATIONS

The following consultations began at 2 p.m., in room 226, House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

Committee members present: Hon. Francis E. Walter, of Pennsylvania (chairman), presiding, and Hon. Gordon H. Scherer, of Ohio. Staff member present: Richard Arens, staff director.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order and the first witnesses will be sworn.

Gentlemen, do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. NASAR. I do.

Mr. SCHERMATOGLU. I do.

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### STATEMENTS OF MR. RUSI NASAR AND MR. ERGACSH SCHERMATOGLU

Mr. ARENS. Will each of you kindly identify yourself by name, residence, and occupation?

Mr. NASAR. My name is Rusi Nasar. I am residing at 111 North Wayne Street, Arlington, Va. I am at present a freelance writer.

Mr. SCHERMATOGLU. My name is Ergacsh Schermatoglu, and my residence is in Arlington, 1301 North Taft Street. I now do research work on problems on Turkistan.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Nasar, will you kindly give us a word about your personal background?

Mr. NASAR. I was born on January 21, 1918, in the city of Margelan in Turkistan. At the present time this city belongs to Uzbek, S.S.R. I got my education in public school in my home town, and I graduated from the Financial Technicum at Tashkent in 1934. I graduated from the Textile College at the same city in 1940.

For a short time I was engaged in engineering work. Then, at the end of 1940, I was drafted by the Soviet Army. I served in the Soviet Army until August 1941. Then I became a German prisoner during the Second World War, and I joined in Germany the Turkistan

Legion. With this legion I fought against the Soviets until the end of World War II in May 1945.

From 1945 until 1951, I was a resident of Germany. I was engaged in many political activities in Germany. I came to this country in November 1951.

First I worked for the Voice of America under contract as a freelance writer. After the abolishment of the Turkistan desk at the Voice of America in September 1953, I worked at different plants, in factories, and I was also engaged in teaching. I was a lecturer at Columbia University. Since June 1955, until July of this year, I was engaged in research work for the Linguistic Association, Washington, D.C. After completing the projects there, I am now a freelance writer.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Schermatoglu, would you kindly let us have a word about your personal background?

Mr. SCHERMATOGLU. Yes. I am from Uzbekistan. My town is Andizhan. I studied in the Pedagogical and Juridical College in Tashkent, and in Moscow. I finished in 1936.

Then I worked in Tashkent as a university teacher until 1940. In 1941 I was drafted into the Soviet Army, and in 1941 during the war, at the front, I became a war prisoner in Germany. Then, during the war, I worked in Berlin for the Turkistan radio broadcast until the end of the war.

After the war I lived in West Germany. In West Germany, I did research work of a scientific nature. I emigrated to America in 1958, and since then I have been doing research work concerning Turkistan, consisting of area studies.

Mr. ARENS. As a point of departure in our consultation today, gentlemen, would you kindly give us the elemental information respecting your former country, Turkistan?

Mr. NASAR. Today you cannot find even on school maps the name of Turkistan. Turkistan, which means "Home of the Turkic people," was, when the Soviets took it over, divided into five different Soviet Republics in 1924, of which it consists today: Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kirghizistan and Tadzhikistan. This was for the simple reason that the Soviets' colonial policy is to divide and rule.

The people were strongly opposed to Soviet rule in our country. This was the reason the Soviets did divide our country in 1924 and make five artificial Republics. Our country is an Asian country, and the native people of Turkistan are a Turkic-Moslem people. We have no racial, linguistic, historical, or cultural relationship with the Russians or other Slavic peoples.

Mr. ARENS. How many people are there in the area formerly known as Turkistan?

Mr. SCHERMATOGLU. In the Soviet-occupied Turkistan today, the native people number almost 18 million. The total population of Turkistan today is about 23 million.

Mr. ARENS. Specifically, where is the area formerly known as Turkistan?

Mr. SCHERMATOGLU. The area of Turkistan is within the Asian part of the Soviet Union, behind the Caspian Sea, on its borderland. Turkistan borders on Persia and Afghanistan in the south and in the east with China and on the north with Siberia.

Mr. ARENS. Could you give us a word about the size of the area formerly known as Turkistan?

Mr. SCHERMATOGLU. This area comprises almost 4 million square kilometers.

Mr. ARENS. How would it compare in size with one of the States in the United States?

Mr. SCHERMATOGLU. I think it would be almost five times as big as Texas.

Mr. ARENS. How did the Communists come to power in Turkistan, and when?

Mr. SCHERMATOGLU. Turkistan was non-Communist until 1917, when the Socialist revolution took place in Russia. Turkistan was not only non-Communist, but had no Communist Party. Among the native people of Turkistan, until 1918, there were no members of the Communist Party. In Turkistan there was no revolution, no Communist or Socialist revolution. But in Russia, in Moscow, they established Soviet power, and this Soviet power, with armed might, came to Turkistan. They were successful in conquering the country, and with the aid of Soviet arms established in Turkistan a Soviet government.

Mr. NASAR. I might say that the revolution took place in the central part of Russia, in Moscow, in Leningrad, formerly known as Petrograd. But in Turkistan, on the contrary, the natives did not take any part in the Communist revolution. Communist power came to Turkistan only with the force of arms, and then they were able to take over.

About this matter I would like to quote from the well-known Communist, G. Safarov, who said in his book, "Colonial Revolution and Its Practice in Turkestan," the following:

Some people needed bread and freedom on cost of old towns and kishlaks (villages). For others—

he means the Turkestan natives—

national freedom was as necessary as bread.

Under the cover of "Virgin Land Policy," Khrushchev deports hundreds of thousands of people from the European part of the Soviet Union to Turkistan, in order to crush the consolidation of the anti-Soviet elements and to strengthen its political and economic position in Central Asia.

In spite of this fact, today in all Soviet literature they say the Turkistan native people participated in the revolution. But this is not true. The truth is that the Soviet power and rule came to Turkistan only with the help of guns, of an army, and an occupational force.

Mr. ARENS. Now, gentlemen, with reference to the present situation in Turkistan, or in the land which was formerly known as Turkistan, can you give us information respecting Khrushchev's policy and program there?

Mr. NASAR. Khrushchev's policy in Turkistan today is the intensification of colonization by the Soviets.

Mr. ARENS. What do you mean by colonization by the Soviets?

Mr. NASAR. We should first state generally what colonization is. Colonization is done from the outside, by one group of people coming to take the territory of another people. If I go and take another country, I colonize it.

The Soviets did that, and they are intensifying their colonization in Turkistan. Soviet colonization started when the Soviets came to power. They started the colonization of our country, sending other ethnic peoples to our country, with the aim of destroying the national life of the Turkistani people.

Mr. ARENS. How many people have been resettled in Turkistan or in the area formerly known as Turkistan?

Mr. NASAR. Of the Soviet Republics of Turkistan, in 1939 Uzbekistan had a population of only 6,336,000. Today, in 1959, it has an 8,113,000 population. Kazakhstan in 1939 had a population of 6,904,000. In 1959, it is 9,301,000.

Mr. ARENS. Approximately how many of the people presently in the area formerly known as Turkistan are persons who have been resettled there by the Communists?

Mr. SCHERMATOGU. After 1953, 1954, when Khrushchev's colonization policy began, about 1,500,000 people came to Turkistan from the European part of the Soviet Union.

They brought in various peoples: for example, from Russia, from the Ukraine, from Byelorussia, from the Baltic countries, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and from Moldavia.

Mr. ARENS. What are their occupations?

Mr. SCHERMATOGU. Those people who were not Russian people, who came to Turkistan, were farmers, worked on the land.

Mr. ARENS. They did agricultural work?

Mr. SCHERMATOGU. Their occupation was agriculture. The other part of the colonists, the Russians, worked in industry and in administration.

Mr. ARENS. When did this colonization of Turkistan begin?

Mr. NASAR. The colonization of Turkistan began since the Russian occupation of Turkistan in the last century. But the colonization before the Communists was done by the Czar. During the czarist regime the colonization was not intensified. It became this way only under the Soviet rule, especially since Khrushchev came into power.

Mr. ARENS. Since Stalin's death, what new means and methods has Khrushchev used in the field of colonization?

Mr. NASAR. Khrushchev is not calling it colonization, but "Virgin Land Policy."

Mr. ARENS. Are these people going voluntarily, willingly, or are they forced to go to Turkistan?

Mr. NASAR. The Soviet press, or the Soviets, claim that this is voluntary; this is the official claim. But we have proof, documented proof, that shows that those people are not going voluntarily.

Mr. ARENS. How do the natives react to Khrushchev's colonization policy?

Mr. SCHERMATOGU. The reaction of the natives started at the beginning of the colonization; the reaction was negative. Then the Soviets came to power and all the natives refused to collaborate with the Soviets. Then the Soviets for the first time made a tactical gesture; they compromised. They said, "We will send no more colonizers, settlers."

The natives believed this at first, and until 1926 the Soviets did indeed not send settlers there. When the Soviets started again sending settlers there for colonization, the natives, not all just anti-Communist people, but even native Communists, started opposing

Soviet colonization. Even the local Communists would not believe what the Russians promised. With sabotage, with uprisings, with many writings in the press, with open protests, they started opposing the Soviet colonization policy.

Some local Communists who had formerly believed the Soviet promise took part. For example, Hidir Ali-oglu, who was a Communist among the natives and who at first believed the promise, when the Soviets again started colonization was forced to commit suicide in protest.

Almost all the representatives of the national intelligentsia during the Stalin regime were killed, purged, terrorized. They were accused by the Soviets of being nationalist and opposers of the settlers.

Mr. ARENS. As is known, from 1938 until the end of 1949, Khrushchev was the boss of the Ukraine. Did his activities in the Ukraine have any relation to the resettlement of people in Turkistan?

Mr. NASAR. Yes, it did, quite a lot. We know Khrushchev from 1938 until the end of 1949 was Communist boss in the Ukraine. At this time in the Ukraine there were many purges against the Ukraine nationalists. For example, before the war, he sent many Ukrainian nationalists to Turkistan.

Mr. ARENS. How many people did Khrushchev cause to be deported from the Ukraine during this period from 1938 to 1949 into Turkistan?

Mr. NASAR. Nearly 1 million.

Mr. ARENS. Were they forcibly sent there?

Mr. NASAR. They were forcibly sent to Turkistan. Here, with one stone, Khrushchev beat two of his enemies. First, he sent anti-Soviet enemies from the Ukraine. Those people who were sent to the other country, not only lost the opportunity to resist Soviet oppression in the Ukraine, but when they came to Turkistan, a different country with different living conditions and a different cultural background, of course they were antagonistic.

Mr. ARENS. What are the relations at the present time between the natives of Turkistan and the people who are deported to Turkistan from the Soviet empire?

Mr. SCHERMATOGLU. The natives have always looked at the settlers who were deported to Turkistan with antipathy, with hatred. They thought all those who came there were Russians, and they opposed them all. But as time went on, they realized that not all those people were Russians, were not their enemies, but people who had been forced to come there. As a result, they now have sympathy for such non-Russians as the Ukrainians, the Latvians, and the Lithuanians. But the native people still have very much antipathy toward the Russians; they are very antagonistic.

Mr. ARENS. Has the brutality under this so-called Virgin Land Policy increased or decreased since Khrushchev assumed power?

Mr. SCHERMATOGLU. Brutality has very much increased, even as compared to the Stalin regime. Under Khrushchev it has increased strongly.

Mr. ARENS. What measures has Khrushchev taken to implement his Virgin Land Policy, under which he deports people to the Turkistan area?

Mr. SCHERMATOGLU. The brutality and cunning efficiency of Khrushchev's Virgin Land Policy may be reflected, in a sense, by looking at

the statistics. During Stalin's regime, notwithstanding the unspeakable ruthlessness with which this tyrant promulgated his policies, there were developed 174 State-controlled agricultural enterprises, which means that there were 174 distinct forced labor camps in which the workers were, in effect, slaves for the State. Since Khrushchev assumed power, the statistics show that this number of forced State-owned agricultural enterprises has increased to almost 900.

May I emphasize that these statistics cannot illustrate or convey the human suffering, the deprivation of liberty, and the inhumanity which is involved in these forced deportations and forced resettlements of human beings in our former homeland. Remember, the fact is that these resettlements are carried out at the threat of the lives of the men, women, and children who are transported thousands of miles and resettled in a strange land, within the shadow of the Soviet military force and under the everwatchful eye of the secret police.

Mr. ARENS. Gentlemen, a correspondent of the New York Times, Harrison Salisbury, recently wrote that there are no more political prisoners in the Soviet Union. What is your reaction to this assertion?

Mr. SCHERMATOGU. First, may I say with tongue in cheek that perhaps Mr. Salisbury's information which he has related in the New York Times was procured from the high Soviet officials. The facts, however, are otherwise. Perhaps the difference between the facts and the portrayal of Mr. Salisbury can be accounted for in this manner, namely, that there has been under Khrushchev a relabeling or recharacterization of the slave labor camps. This, of course, is a clever device to fool the free world. The truth is that since Khrushchev's rise to power, the number of camps in which human beings are deprived of their liberty and at gun's point are forced to work has appreciably increased, even though they may now be called something other than slave labor camps. I think it was Shakespeare who said in one of his plays that a rose by any other name smells just as sweet. The facts are that the slave labor camps under the new labels are just as bitter, just as destructive to humanity as they ever were under the worst periods of Stalin's dictatorship.

Mr. ARENS. How many forced labor colonies or slave labor camps, by whatever name you call them, are there in the Soviet Republic of Turkistan?

Mr. SCHERMATOGU. The exact number of concentration camps we cannot say, because it is a Soviet State secret. But every one of these agricultural enterprises has forced labor brigades. In a sense, our entire homeland is a forced labor camp, in that it is operated under an iron-fisted dictatorship from Moscow. Beyond that, however, within the borders of our homeland, Turkistan, there operate numerous groups known as labor brigades, which are nothing but slave labor groups involving hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children who are shifted from area to area to perform labor tasks.

Again I say, Khrushchev and his bloody regime may dispute the existence of slave labor camps because they are not called slave labor camps, but for all intents and purposes they have every element of a slave labor camp, including starvation, brutalities, the infliction of death upon those who do not conform to the rigid discipline, the deprivation of human liberty, and all of the other elements which

were present in the slave labor camps as they were formerly characterized in the regime of Stalin.

Mr. ARENS. What appears to be Khrushchev's objective in his Virgin Land Policy?

Mr. SCHERMATOGU. There appear to be several objectives. One is to destroy the cultures of the people who are forcibly deported from area to area within the Soviet empire. Secondly, the policy is obviously designed to dilute and destroy the culture and nationalism of the areas in which the deportees are resettled.

For example, in our homeland of Turkistan, we pride ourselves upon our ancient heritage, our customs, and our nationalism. This is, of course, being diluted and destroyed by the forcible dilution of our population with people of different cultures and backgrounds. Beyond that, Khrushchev has as an objective the obvious, namely, to get production wrung from the sweat and toil of the slaves whom he rules.

Mr. NASAR. I think it is supremely important at all times to bear in mind the strategic importance of Turkistan to the objectives of the international Communist operation to control the world. Turkistan, because of its geographical location, is a springboard from which the Communist empire may penetrate other strategic areas of the world in furtherance of the Communist global designs.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Nasar, I understand from our informal discussions that over the course of the last few years you have attended a number of sessions over the world which were controlled by the Communists. Tell us a word about those sessions, first of all, and then I will have a question or two specifically on the Vienna Youth Festival.

Mr. NASAR. Yes, I did participate in the Asian-African Conference in Bandung in 1955. I was there as an observer. Also I participated in the first Asian-African Solidarity Conference, which took place at the end of 1958 at Cairo. The last instance was this year, when I was able to go to Vienna to see the World Youth Festival.

Mr. ARENS. Specifically, about the Vienna Youth Festival, did you have occasion while you were there to contact any of the young people who were in attendance from your former homeland, Turkistan?

Mr. NASAR. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us about that, please.

Mr. NASAR. Among the Soviet delegation were many Turkistanians, Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Turkmens, Kirghizes, Tadzhiks. I met some of them at the Youth Festival which, for the first time, had taken place outside the Iron Curtain countries.

Of course, the Soviets sent so-called devoted and trusted people to Vienna, or tried to. In spite of that, I found out our people still had a strong nationalistic feeling and pride. The youth were very much interested in life in the foreign countries, as to their bad living conditions, and so forth. They, the Turkistanians, were very much interested in how their former compatriots were living on the outside, how the people were thinking.

For example, on many occasions I explained that our main aim was the liberation of Turkistan, to fight for liberation. They were very proud to hear this, and some young people even went so far as to say, "God bless you. We hope that the free world has not forgotten our enslaved countries."

Mr. ARENS. What interpretation do you place upon that attitude as expressed by these young people?

Mr. NASAR. My interpretation is very simple. In spite of all the Soviet propaganda and teaching, the people in their real thinking are nationalist, and they hope that one day they will become free from foreign domination. This is the national aspiration of the Turkistanians. They are awaiting the right opportunity, the time when they can regain their national independence. The Soviets have been unable to destroy the nationalistic thinking of the people. It is a force which exists and that cannot be killed, with all the might of the Soviets.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Nasar, a short time ago Khrushchev left these shores, after having been given the red-carpet treatment by the highest of our officials. What will be the reaction of the people of your former homeland who are enslaved by the Khrushchev regime, when they see portrayed in the Communist publications the homey reception which he was accorded here, at which the highest of our officialdom was informing the American people about the home-loving scenes with Khrushchev and his family on this soil of a free country?

Mr. NASAR. I would like to give you an illustration.

I was in Vienna when I heard about the invitation given to Khrushchev to visit the U.S.A., and I spoke with some young people of Turkistan about this matter. They were incredulous, asking "How can it be? On the one hand, the U.S.A. claims to stand for freedom and liberty for the peoples; on the other hand, they invite Khrushchev to their country." They asked, "How can you explain that?"

Of course, this was very difficult to answer. We said it was because of a policy of finding a solution to establish a way for world peace.

I tell you, whoever it was that treated him good or bad, I don't care. But this is killing the national aspirations of those subjugated people. In the eyes of subjugated people, like my people, the Turkistanians, the treatment of Khrushchev, the very invitation itself, and the subsequent red-carpet treatment, are causing these people to think, "To whom can we now express our feelings, our aspirations?" They are losing hope for the future, hope for their eventual liberation.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, gentlemen.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, the next three witnesses are Mr. Mierlak, Dr. Tumash, and Mr. Shukeloyts.

The CHAIRMAN. Do each of you gentlemen solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. MIERLAK. I do.

Dr. TUMASH. I do.

Mr. SHUKELOYTS. I do.

The CHAIRMAN. You may proceed, Mr. Arens.

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#### STATEMENT OF MR. CONSTANT MIERLAK

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Mierlak, please identify yourself by name, residence, and occupation.

Mr. MIERLAK. My name is Constant Mierlak. I reside at 197 Roebing Street, Brooklyn, New York. I am an accountant working for



the Holland-American Line in New York. I might add that I am the national president of the Byelorussian-American Association.

Mr. ARENS. Give us a word about the Byelorussian-American Association. What is that organization?

Mr. MIERLAK. The Byelorussian-American Association, at 401 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, with its affiliate organizations, is the largest one in the United States of Americans of Byelorussian background. The membership is made up of approximately 30 different civic, religious, social, and other organizations. We claim to represent in first and second generations over half a million Americans of Byelorussian origin.

Many of them had to flee as refugees and escapees. They have come to this country and now are respected citizens, and they continue to study the problems of communism and, particularly, the Communist Russian imperialism and aggression, in order to provide and divulge the facts and dangers to the security of this country, and to make understood that there will be no peace on earth until all nations are free, including Byelorussia.

Mr. ARENS. Where is Byelorussia?

Mr. MIERLAK. Byelorussia is in eastern Europe, north of the Ukraine, west of Poland, south of Lithuania and Latvia, and east of Russia.

Mr. ARENS. How large is Byelorussia?

Mr. MIERLAK. At the present time, Byelorussia itself, its ethnographic territory, occupies about 180,000 square miles; but only a portion of it, 80,000 square miles, is incorporated into the present Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Mr. ARENS. Is Byelorussia the area of the U.S.S.R. which is frequently referred to as "White Russia"?

Mr. MIERLAK. That is right.

Mr. ARENS. What is the population of White Russia, or Byelorussia?

Mr. MIERLAK. Officially now, at the present time, the population of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic is over 8 million. On its ethnographic territory, there are about 18 million Byelorussians.

Mr. ARENS. Give us, if you please, just a word of the historical background of White Russia, or Byelorussia.

Mr. MIERLAK. In the Middle Ages Byelorussia appeared under the name of Kryvia, and later on was known as the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. It was the common state of the Byelorussians and Lithuanians. In 1795 Byelorussia was incorporated into the Russian empire under the Czar.

Then, of course, there were continuous efforts on the part of the Byelorussians to regain their independence: in 1812 with the help of Napoleon; in 1863 by an armed uprising under the leadership of Kastus Kalinowski; and it was only in 1917 that the Byelorussians succeeded in establishing a Byelorussian Democratic Republic, by means of democratic self-determination.

The All-Byelorussian Congress, as it was called, consisted of 1,872 delegates, covering all ethnographic territory. It convened in Minsk on December 18, 1917, and became in fact the constituent assembly of Byelorussia. The Congress elected a council, called the Rada, and a presidium as its executive bodies. On March 25, 1918, the Rada and the Executive Council proclaimed the independence of Byelorussia.

The Byelorussian Democratic Republic was recognized de jure by nine nations and de facto by five.

To counteract the Byelorussian Democratic Republic, the Russian Communists established their own "independent" Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the creation of which was announced in Smolensk on January 1, 1919. An uneven struggle ensued, and the Byelorussian people were not able this time to defend their freedom from the aggression of Moscow. The B.S.S.R. became a "Union Republic" with its puppet government in the structure of the Soviet Union, and this is still in existence.

Mr. ARENS. Would you kindly give us just a word on your own personal life and background?

Mr. MIERLAK. I was born in the western part of Byelorussia in 1919. I studied economics in Lublin, Poland; and after World War II, I continued my studies in Rome, Italy. In 1947 I emigrated to Argentina, and from there to the United States in 1954. In Buenos Aires I worked also with the Dutch Steamship Company. Besides my professional occupation, I am engaged in civic activities with Byelorussians in the United States, as I was before in Argentina.

Mr. ARENS. Are you a permanent resident of the United States?

Mr. MIERLAK. Yes, I am.

Mr. ARENS. In the course of your contacts in your Byelorussian association, do you have sources of information respecting the present situation in Byelorussia under Khrushchev's regime?

Mr. MIERLAK. Yes, we have.

Mr. ARENS. Would you kindly proceed at your own pace to supply the committee with the information which you have, particularly with reference to the Russification of Byelorussia?

Mr. MIERLAK. I will. The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, juridically speaking, is a state. It has territory, people, and administration, and furthermore is a founding member of the United Nations. However, the administration, constitution, and the so-called "Soviet system" are imposed forcibly upon the Byelorussian people by Moscow. In reality, "Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic" is the name covering part of the Byelorussian geographic territory of the Soviet Russian colonial administration.

The Byelorussian nation, consisting of non-Russian people, is destined for complete unification and annihilation in the future by Moscow. The original plan was conceived and carried on by Stalin, with terror and physical destruction, by mass shootings, deportations to concentration camps, where people died from cold, malnutrition, and hardship, and other similar means. The same policy is now pursued by Mr. Khrushchev, only with different applied methods.

Mr. ARENS. What are those methods?

Mr. MIERLAK. Mr. Khrushchev does not deport people to concentration camps for destruction, but he resettles them in Kazakhstan and in other Siberian lands, thus denationalizing the other nations and depopulating Byelorussia. Furthermore, he sends Russians in place of the resettled Byelorussians.

Mr. Khrushchev, to carry on Russification and assimilation in Byelorussia, does not change the Byelorussian grammar like Stalin did, but he reduces Byelorussian schools and, at the same time, is increasing the Russian ones. He reduces Byelorussian publications, but, at the same

time, increases the Russian ones; and the same pattern is followed in all branches of cultural, economical, and social life in Byelorussia.

Mr. ARENS. Would you give us some details regarding this?

Mr. MIERLAK. The ministers in all cabinets of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic government in 40 years of existence were exclusively Russians sent to Minsk by Moscow, with one or two exceptions. For instance, the present government of the B.S.S.R., formed on April 9, 1959, consists of 22 persons, of whom only 2 or 3 are probably Byelorussians, and all others are Russians.

Mr. ARENS. What about the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic delegation to the Assembly of the United Nations?

Mr. MIERLAK. The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic delegation to the Fourteenth Assembly of the United Nations consists of eight persons, all of them Russians who do not even speak Byelorussian, the language of the people whom they supposedly represent in the United Nations, except one P. U. Brovka, who is Byelorussian and chairman of the Committee of the Byelorussian Writers Union.

Mr. ARENS. Is this a general pattern of the Communist regime in its domination of Byelorussia?

Mr. MIERLAK. Yes, it is. This is a permanent Moscow pattern, of sending Russians to Byelorussia and setting them in posts in all branches of national life. In the administration, starting from the ministers and directors of all the administrative branches and government agencies, and going down to the provincial and regional administrations and even the chairmen of the village councils, nearly all are Russians.

It would be proper to emphasize here that the justice, security, and police personnel consist exclusively of Russians. In economic life, all directors, managers, chiefs of sections, accountants, and cashiers of factories, cooperative shops, retail stores, kolkhozs, etc, are Russians, or almost entirely so. A similar pattern and similar proportions are followed in cultural life, entertainment, science, and education. The administration of the Communist Party of Byelorussia is exclusively in Russian hands. A Byelorussian, even a Communist, cannot be trusted in key posts.

Mr. ARENS. What about the schools and education in Byelorussia?

Mr. MIERLAK. In general, education in Byelorussia is progressively decreasing, according to Kul'turnoe Stroitel' Stvo SSSR—Statisticheskii Sbornik—Moscow 1956."

Mr. ARENS. What is that?

Mr. MIERLAK. This is a statistical information book. Here it is [displaying book].

In 1940 there were 1,691,529 pupils studying in the schools in Byelorussia. In 1956 there were 1,218,057 pupils. The total pupils decreased in 16 years by 473,472, or approximately 24.5 percent. At the present time there are in Minsk 58 high schools (desiatiletiki), only 10 of them are Byelorussian and out of 8 teachers only 3 are Byelorussian. The analogical situation exists in all cities of Byelorussia.

May I say, in essence, since the promulgation of the present policies under Khrushchev, there is a systematic destruction of the Byelorussian culture and education as they have heretofore been known, and a systematic reduction in the number of Byelorussian schools, which

are regularly being replaced with Russian schools under the direct discipline and control of the Communists.

Mr. ARENS. Do you have information respecting the press and books published in Byelorussia?

Mr. MIERLAK. Yes. A typical sign of Russian colonial administration is that in Minsk are published two major newspapers: *Zviazda* in Byelorussian for the native population, and *Sovietskaya Belorussia* in Russian for Russian nationals employed in administration and exploitation of Byelorussia.

According to the same "Statisticheskii Sbornik" in 1955 there were a total of 670 different books published, 410 in Russian and 260 in Byelorussian. The Russian nationals living in Byelorussia, who represent less than 20 percent of the total population, have 1 to 20.5 books published for them, whereas the Byelorussians, who represent 80 percent of the total population, have only 1 to 3.25 books. There were published 39 different magazines and periodicals, only 14 of them in Byelorussian.

Mr. ARENS. Do I interpret your testimony properly to mean that notwithstanding the fact that 80 percent of the people in Byelorussia are Byelorussians and only 20 percent are Russian and other ethnic groups, the overwhelming preponderance of the published work is in Russian?

Mr. MIERLAK. That is right.

Mr. ARENS. What conclusion do you, as a student of the social and political order within your former country of Byelorussia, reach as a result of this information which you have been conveying to the committee?

Mr. MIERLAK. These facts clearly demonstrate and convince anyone that the Soviet Russian Government, in the past with the indirect responsibility of Mr. Khrushchev, and at the present, the government headed by Mr. Khrushchev, have to bear the responsibility of carrying on a policy of destruction of the Byelorussian nation, and he must be judged as a criminal for the following acts: for depriving the Byelorussian people of human rights and dignity; for physical and moral humiliation inflicted upon the Byelorussians by Mr. Khrushchev's colonial administration; for destruction of the Byelorussian culture; and for imposing Russification in order to achieve assimilation and carry on economic exploitation for the benefit of the Russian people, aiming by these and other means to dominate all over the world.

Mr. WALTER. Thank you, sir.

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#### STATEMENT OF DR. VITAUT TUMASH

Mr. ARENS. Dr. Tumash, please identify yourself by name, residence, and occupation.

Dr. TUMASH. My name is Vitaut Tumash. I reside at 376 East 138th Street, The Bronx, New York. I am a medical doctor, born in Byelorussia. I studied at the University of Vilna. In 1950 I emigrated to the United States, where I have been a citizen since 1956. I am chairman of the Byelorussian Institute of Arts and Sciences in the United States, an organization of Byelorussian scholars, writers, and artists. It is the main aim of the Byelorussian Institute to promote scientific research and publications on the land, history, and

culture of the Byelorussian people, and to support creative activities in Byelorussian literature and the arts.

Mr. ARENS. Do you, sir, have current information respecting mass deportations in Byelorussia under Khrushchev's regime?

Dr. TUMASH. I do.

Mr. ARENS. Kindly proceed at your own pace to make that information available to the committee.

Dr. TUMASH. On the grounds of the information at my disposition, I am in a position to inform the committee of the tragic years of Khrushchev's dictatorship in the U.S.S.R. as it has affected the Byelorussian people.

Mr. ARENS. What is the source of your information?

Dr. TUMASH. Many of my sources are confidential, as I have explained to you informally off the record before. Others are official Soviet statistics and publications about the population of Byelorussian S.S.R.

Today we definitely can say that the rate per year of deportations of Byelorussians to distant lands of the Soviet Union during the years of Khrushchev's regime is higher than during the time of Stalin's dictatorship.

Mr. ARENS. With what facts can you support that statement, sir?

Dr. TUMASH. The deportations of the Byelorussian population in recent years have increased to an extent never before known in the history of Byelorussia. These people, hundreds of thousands yearly, are transported to the far countries of Soviet Asia and the northern European Soviet districts. The initiative and design of this deportation plan have come directly from Khrushchev as first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

The deportations were started in March 1954 under Khrushchev's plan of the so-called cultivation of virgin lands. To accomplish this plan under the orders of Moscow there was immediately organized a central recruiting office under the Council of Ministers of the Byelorussian S.S.R. Besides, in every district and county of Byelorussia, there were established offices for recruiting. Through these offices, people are recruited under pressure of Communist political propaganda apparatus and through their fear of the terrorism of the M.V.D., the secret police.

Those deported were both families and single young people. Those who tried to avoid deportation or later to escape from the deportation areas were publicly persecuted and denounced.

Mr. ARENS. From what place and to where were the people deported?

Dr. TUMASH. They were deported en masse from all of Byelorussia and directed mostly to the southern regions of Soviet Asia, districts several thousand miles from Byelorussia. In the spring 1955 special trains were put into regular operation on the Minsk-Pavlodar route to carry Byelorussians to the virgin lands in the Kazakh S.S.R. In the years 1954 and 1955, hundreds of thousands of the Byelorussian population were transported in this way from their home country. According to Moscow Pravda of March 9, 1954, the deported were directed mainly to Krasnoyarsk and Altay lands, to Kazakh S.S.R., to the districts of Chita, Irkutsk, Kemerovo, Kurgansk, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Tyumen, Chelyabinsk, Chkalov, and Saratov.

Mr. ARENS. Were there any other actions of mass deportations from Byelorussia besides the forcible resettlement to the virgin lands?

Dr. TUMASH. Yes, there were. Mass deportation from Byelorussia under Khrushchev's dictatorship is a permanent activity.

Mr. ARENS. How many people have been forcibly deported from your native land, Byelorussia, during Khrushchev's regime?

Dr. TUMASH. Many hundreds of thousands. That will come at the end of my report. I want to give you a more exact figure.

The deportations for cultivation of virgin lands were not finished when, May 19, 1956, there was published a call of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. to komsomols and youth of the U.S.S.R. This call was mainly directed to the youth of western European Republics of the Soviet Union. In this appeal, the party and Council of Ministers asked for new contingents, but now only of youth, instead of both youth and families as before, to resettle the far Asian and Siberian lands, and the northern parts of the European Soviet Union, for industrial development and for population of these areas. They were asking for at least half a million youth; and a very large part, if not most, of this forcibly resettled youth were recruited in the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic.

At these times, the youths had to carry on not agricultural work as before in the virgin lands action, but had to work very hard in mining, in the exploitation of forests, in the building of railroads, in the building of hydroelectric power stations and of factories.

Due to this appeal, the first transportees from Byelorussia were taken to these far lands of the Soviet Union on the 13th of June 1956, from the capital of the Republic, Minsk. The mass deportations of Byelorussian youth continued since through the following years. Hundreds of thousands of Byelorussian boys and girls were torn from their parents, their families, their homes, and their native country. They were sent thousands of miles away for hard slave work, suffering from raw climate, chronic lack of sufficient food, clothing, and necessary housing.

Gusev, the director of the recruiting office under the Council of Ministers of the Byelorussian S.S.R., announced February 27, 1957, in the Byelorussian newspaper *Zviazda* in Minsk, that this time the deportees from Byelorussia were directed mainly to Karelian Autonomous S.S.R., to the districts of Vologda, Irkutsk, Molotov, Tomsk, Tyumen, and to Sakhalin Island which lies in the Pacific Ocean and which was annexed by the Soviet Union from Japan at the end of World War II. The same *Zviazda* of February 21, 1957, reported about many new settlements of Byelorussians on Sakhalin Island.

Mr. ARENS. Do you have any facts respecting the repercussions of these deportations on the economic life of Byelorussia?

Dr. TUMASH. Yes, I do. The mass deportation from Byelorussia in the time of Khrushchev's dictatorship has caused, through the decrease of the labor force in that country, an especially acute problem in agriculture. This situation has become in some years, especially at harvesting time, a catastrophic thing.

As an example, in 1957, at the end of August, when normally the harvesting in Byelorussia is finished, it had been impossible to reap more than about 50 percent of the harvest. At this time Moscow, in order to save at least the grain which was to be delivered to the State,

had to call a conference of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Byelorussian Republic, together with the Council of Ministers, in a special emergency session, to devise drastic measures to save the situation.

One striking point in the resulting appeal or order issued by this emergency session was that all schoolchildren in Byelorussia between the ages of 10 and 14, under the leadership of their teachers, had to take part in this harvesting operation, throughout the Republic. From this you can see how acute the artificially created deficit of labor is in Byelorussia now.

This remarkable document on the compulsory work of minors on the order of the Communist regime was published in the newspaper *Zviazda*, in Minsk, August 27, 1957. The acute labor deficit is the cause that physical work by schoolchildren in Byelorussia is today a permanent condition. The Communist press of the Byelorussian S.S.R. in 1955 proudly announced the fact that the schools of the Republic had sown 31,000 hectares of corn, harvested 8,000 hectares of flax, and 93,000 hectares of potatoes.

In addition, the situation is made worse because Moscow is taking from Byelorussia, as a normal thing, most of the production in agricultural machinery, trucks, and other necessary equipment, to send them—as the Prime Minister of Byelorussia in 1958 reported—to China, Korea, Mongolia, India, Burma, and other countries. So that besides having too few people to work in the country, those few very often have to work only with their bare hands, because their agricultural implements are so poor, and they do not have a sufficient supply of machines. This is a part of the general catastrophic situation caused by Khrushchev's depopulation of Byelorussia.

Mass deportations are also paralyzing considerably the industrialization of the Republic and they are slowing the growth of Byelorussian cities. According to the Soviet 1959 census the Byelorussian S.S.R. has 31 percent of the urban population only, the lowest percentage among all other Republics of the Soviet Union with one exception only, Moldavian S.S.R. The average for the entire U.S.S.R. is now 48 percent. Khrushchev's Russian Communist regime is trying to transform Byelorussia into Moscow's colony for the specific purpose of being a reservoir of slave labor masses which will supply at the will and order of Moscow the people to populate, colonize, and industrialize the other areas and lands of the Moscow empire.

Mr. ARENS. What percentage of the population of Byelorussia has been deported during the Khrushchev regime?

Dr. TUMASH. Official sources have never published a general account of this; but from the census of 1959 which was taken in the U.S.S.R., the population for that year was 8,060,000 in Byelorussia, compared with 9,300,000 in 1939, in the same territory. You can see from that how large a decrease in population there had been within just two decades. It is a decrease of 13 percent. Only one other Republic of the Soviet Union, Lithuanian S.S.R., has in the same time decreased in population, but to a much smaller extent, 5 percent only. All other Republics are showing increases averaging 9.5 percent for the entire U.S.S.R. This fact shows that Byelorussia at the present time is chosen by Moscow as its main victim in a genocidal attempt to erase with time all non-Russian nations from the map of the U.S.S.R.

But this comparison does not really show the actual deficit, because we must take into account that during 20 years in Byelorussia in normal times, when there were no wars going on and no Communist mass deportations, the normal yearly population increase was 2 percent. On this basis, in 20 years, we could expect in this same territory not just 8 million but something like 13,800,000 population, which means there is actually an overall deficit of 5,800,000, or 42 percent.

According to the statement of Prime Minister Mazurov of the Byelorussian S.S.R. in the Moscow *Izvestia* of February 10, 1955, during the last World War the Byelorussian S.S.R. had 1,500,000 war casualties. Together with the fall in the natural increase of the population caused by the war, this gives about 2 million war losses for Byelorussia. If we subtract these war losses from 5,800,000, we still have a deficit of 3,800,000 unexplained by the war.

This deficit is due partially, in fact, mostly, to the persecutions and deportations in Stalin's time under his dictatorship, which accounts for 15 years of this 20-year period. But the last 5 years are Khrushchev's responsibility, for this mass depopulation in Byelorussia.

MR. ARENS. What, besides economic goals, does Khrushchev have as an objective for these mass deportations of the population of Byelorussia?

DR. TUMASH. I think the economic goals are important, but they were not the only goals, and not always decisive. There were several others, too.

For example, at the time of mass deportations to the Kazakh S.S.R.—Moscow *Pravda* of October 21, 1954, published an article written according to the information from the Byelorussian Ministry of Melioration, stating that the Byelorussian Republic has vast areas, around 190,000 hectares—that is about a half million acres—of fertile virgin lands in the southern Byelorussian region of Palesie, not cultivated due to the lack of labor. It was land already meliorated; already drained, prepared, too. If only it could have been plowed and sown, there could have been an additional 10 million poods of grain for the Byelorussian people. So stated *Pravda*.

This fact was known, certainly not only to *Pravda*, but also to the Central Committee of the Communist Party and Khrushchev, as well. But despite these possibilities in these virgin lands in Byelorussia, he still took hundreds of thousands of people from there and transported them several thousand miles to other parts of the U.S.S.R.

This means that not only economical considerations were taken into account, but there were others, too. Some other considerations which I think were very important were: through the mass transportation of the population, to decrease the number of Byelorussians in Byelorussia, on the one hand; and on the other, to dilute the non-Russian Republics in Asia with the population from our country. Either way, it is really an intention to commit genocide, in the areas where the population is resettled and in the country from which they are taken.

Besides, we must take into account what most of the areas are like where the populations were transported: in Asia along the China border. I think strategical considerations of the Soviet Union are playing a very important part in all this transportation of masses, to secure the borders of the Soviet empire against China. The final



goal of all Khrushchev's mass resettlements is to raise economic and military strength of Russian communism for the future conquest of the world.

Mr. ARENS. Are there any differences in the methods of mass deportations followed by Khrushchev from the methods followed by his predecessor, Stalin?

Dr. TUMASH. There are some differences, but really there is no change in principles, no change in goals. One of the differences, to take an example, was that when Stalin had these mass deportations performed from Byelorussia, his aim was mostly to destroy these people physically. He arrested them and sent them to concentration camps, where they had to endure and work under inhuman conditions, and perish. It seems that Khrushchev's method is, on the other hand, that he does not think about killing the population, but he wants to transfer it to other regions, to Russify it and to use it for colonization of other Republics of the U.S.S.R. His intent does not seem to be to destroy them physically, but nationally, and through this action to make Russians stronger in numbers on the one hand, and on the other to decrease the population of the non-Russian Republics, in this case, the Byelorussian population.

But the practical effect of all this on Byelorussian people and the Republic is just about the same, because so or so, it is a mass depopulation of the country.

Mr. ARENS. What, concretely, is the responsibility of Khrushchev for the mass deportations of the Byelorussian people?

Dr. TUMASH. The action of mass deportation of Byelorussians connected with the cultivation of virgin lands of Soviet Asia, and mass deportations of Byelorussian youth for the purpose of populating and industrializing Siberia and other lands of the Soviet empire were both initiated and carried out by the order of Khrushchev as first secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and as premier and unquestionable dictator of the U.S.S.R. For this reason Khrushchev and his regime are definitely responsible for the big deficit in the population of Byelorussia, at least for the part which has taken place since Stalin's death. I think that I will be very close to the truth, if I say that at least 1 million of all the deficit in the population of the Byelorussian S.S.R. is a direct or indirect result of Khrushchev's recent forcible mass resettlement of Byelorussians. The rest was Stalin's work, whose ardent helper Khrushchev always was. Khrushchev's deportations in Byelorussia are robbing the Republic of nearly all natural increase of the population.

In the country of their destination Byelorussian deportees are deprived of their national organizations and institutions, of Byelorussian press and Byelorussian schools. Far from their homeland with its old national traditions and customs, scattered among alien people, they are condemned to rapid denationalization, Russification, and national death.

Through the permanent mass deportations and consequently depopulation of Byelorussia, Khrushchev and his government are obviously violating the Convention of the United Nations of December 9, 1948, concerning genocide. This convention declares that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is an international crime, and defines it as "acts committed with intent to destroy,

in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such." Khrushchev is definitely guilty of the violation of this convention and especially of the violation of point (e) of Article II of it, which speaks about "forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

The Government of the Soviet Union ratified the convention on genocide in 1954, and they in effect acknowledge the binding validity of this convention for the U.S.S.R. Consequently Khrushchev and his government have not only moral but also juridical responsibility before the United Nations and all the world for their crime of genocide committed in continuous attempts to destroy Byelorussian people as a nation.

Mr. WALTER. Thank you, Dr. Tunash.

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### STATEMENT OF ANTON SHUKELOYTS

Mr. ARENS. Please identify yourself by name, residence, and occupation, and give us a word of your personal background.

Mr. SHUKELOYS. My name is Anton Shukeloys. I live at 70 East Third Street, New York City. I work at Ohrbach's, Inc. I am taking an active part in the civic life of the Byelorussian organizations in New York. I was born in 1915 from a country family. In 1939 I graduated from the Humanist Faculty in the Vilna University, where I had studied ethnography and Slavic languages.

I worked as a teacher, and in 1941 I was arrested by the Communists and later liberated by the Germans. I worked until 1944 in the Museum of Minsk as custodian and was a member of the Commission for the Reconstruction of Churches Destroyed by Communists.

In 1944 I was in Germany as a worker. Then I became a refugee and came to the United States in 1950.

Mr. ARENS. What can you tell us about the churches in Byelorussia, having been a member of the Commission for Reconstruction?

Mr. SHUKELOYS. We have to take into account that the Byelorussian people have confessed the Christian faith for almost a thousand years, yet, as a result of the Communist antireligious terror at the beginning of the Second World War, there was not a single church of the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Protestant, or Jewish denomination in the whole territory of the Byelorussian S.S.R. There was not a single priest of these denominations who could legally perform his religious duties. As our commission soon found, the same situation also existed in Minsk, the capital of Byelorussia: In this city with a population of more than 240,000 we found not a single open church regardless of religion. The Orthodox cathedral was dynamited, and there was a place for a circus on its site. The other church, seat of the metropolitan in Minsk, also Orthodox, was turned into a museum, and later turned into an amusement club for Soviet officers. What had been the body of the church was turned into a theater hall. In reconstructing this house for the Soviet officers, all the marble material was taken out of Catholic, Orthodox, and Jewish cemeteries.

In the Catholic Cathedral of St. Mary, there was constructed a garage for trucks.

Mr. ARENS. What do you know about the present situation as to the churches in Minsk under the Khrushchev dictatorship?

Mr. SHUKLOYTS. Under the Khrushchev dictatorship, the Orthodox Cathedral of St. Catherine, which is the oldest one of the churches in Minsk, and which was, before the Second World War, changed into a warehouse and then reverted again to a church by the people during the German occupation, has now again been converted, this time into the archives of the State.

The Catholic Cathedral of St. Mary, changed first into a garage, but reconstructed under the German occupation by the people, has now been converted into a sport club.

The Catholic Church of Sts. Simeon and Helen, popularly called the "Red Church" because of its color, which before the Second World War served as a theater for youth, and which was reconstructed by the Byelorussian people during the time of German occupation, has now, according to the sources we have, been converted again, into a warehouse.

The principal Jewish synagog in Minsk, which before the Second World War was converted into a traveling artists' theater, has now been completely reconstructed and converted into a Russian dramatic theater. Through this reconstruction, the building is now so changed that it would take an expert to find out that it was formerly a synagog.

The oldest Jewish synagog in Minsk, built in 1633, is now changed into a warehouse.

The principal Protestant church in Minsk has been converted into a moving picture theater for children.

Thousands of churches of all denominations in all other cities, towns, and villages of Byelorussia are in similar condition today. Many of the destroyed churches were priceless ancient relics of the architecture and art of Byelorussia. To understand the extent of the destruction of religious life in Byelorussia brought on by 40 years of this Communist terror, we should consider the fact that this country, which before World War I, had about 4,500 Orthodox, about 450 Catholic, and 700 Jewish churches, now has religious services performed only in several hundred of Orthodox, and a few Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish churches.

The independent Byelorussian Autocephalic Orthodox Church, which was restored twice, once after World War I and again during World War II, was again destroyed by Moscow in 1944 and forcibly replaced by the Russian Orthodox Church. The Byelorussian Autocephalic Orthodox Church exists today only in exile, in the United States and several other countries of the free world.

Basically, the religious life of the Byelorussian people under Khrushchev dictatorship differs very little from the life under Stalin's terror. Religions and churches of all denominations in Byelorussia are still under continuous oppression and persecution. The final Khrushchev goal is the total destruction of every faith.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Shukeloyts.

(Whereupon, at 4:40 p.m., the consultation was concluded.)

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